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DEALING WITH CAR CONGESTION

After The Times has given publicity for months to the congestion of street cars every morning and evening at Fourteenth and F streets the Washington Railway and Electric Company seems to realize that the situation demands remedy. Voluntarily it suggests to the public utilities commission that an effective remedy for the difficulty might be the stopping of the southbound cars on Fourteenth street on the south side of the street.

There is no disposition to quarrel with the company over the tardiness of a move to remedy the condition. Of course, the suggestion was made to them in The Times many weeks ago, and the company has tried to assure the public, which kept getting to work late, that there was no delay at all at that point. But if the suggestion works patrons will bury the hatchet on this score.

Coupled with this suggestion we still insist that the cars would be expedited in their passage through the Fourteenth street funnel if the eastbound cars are not held up while passengers alighting from south bound cars in the rear board the car in front.

PUBLIC LIBRARY'S NEEDS

In the wide discussion of the need for community and social centers in Washington the fact should not be overlooked that the city has one such center that is active and useful. It is not in a school; it is at the Public Library.

The library affords a place for meetings of every sort of organization ranging from home rule societies to drama leagues and domestic science clubs. It is a forum for the discussion of public questions and for the education of citizens. It fulfills every shade of the definition for a community center given in a recent address of Miss Margaret Wilson, which was considered an authoritative utterance on the subject. For that reason as well as for the various other forms of service it renders, the Public Library is entitled to all it asks of this Congress in the way of an adequate staff, adequate salaries for its employees, and additional equipment.

There are few gathering places in the city which have become so popular as the library, which affords rooms for large and small meetings, and a record of the meetings there for a year would give a fair indication of the community's activities. The library is not limited to what it does within its walls, but it has established branches in schools and at settlement houses.

Much of the success that has attended the library's efforts has been due to the fact that they have been extremely democratic and not at all "high brow." Far from confining its attention to books alone, it has become a clipping bureau for current events and newspaper and periodical articles of value; it has collections of reproductions of art works which have been widely circulated in schools and among clubs; and it has exhibits that not only should be educational, but are so, because the public goes to see them.

Not even the schools touch the community at more points than the library, though the former gain more attention because of their number. In any effort to establish community centers in the schools, the encouragement of the one already in operation at the library should not be neglected.

POVERTY AND MORALITY

Out of their own mouths the members of the Illinois senate white slave investigating committee convict themselves when they attribute to poverty the principal cause of young women going into immoral lives "because of the sheer inability to keep body and soul together on the low wages they receive."

But the very details of the committee's report prove mathematically that the highest percentage of those that go wrong aren't faced at all with the question of keeping the body and soul together. Of all of a given number of girls sent to the State training schools it was found that 63.65 per cent had been in domestic service.

Now the girl who must support herself out of her wages in a factory or in a shop has to spend virtually all her income on the very things that are usually given to the servant along with the servant's wages—rent, fuel, light, and food. Whatever is to be said of the monotony or hardship of the servant's life, of her discontent with it, of the humiliation which she may think it puts upon her, the cold, economic fact remains that at the end of the

month, with no rent to pay, no food to buy, no fuel and light to be provided by her, she comes out with her wages all net in her pocket.

But in a certain type of grinding factory and of pickpocket shop where a girl is not only paid low wages but systematically fined on every possible occasion so as to cut them, and then perhaps, in some cases, is compelled to deposit a fraction of her pay in an alleged banking department of the shop, where she has a very good chance, in too many cases, of being robbed of that—in such employment, after the girl has paid for her rent, for the presentable clothes she must wear, for her carfare, she may have mighty little left to put into food.

And yet the Illinois report shows that, with all these circumstances entirely and terribly against the girl working under such circumstances, she makes a better moral showing in the percentage tables than those in some other occupations. So that the Illinois committee's report is a gross libel on the natural virtue of women.

This isn't to say that all women and girls who have to earn their living ought not to get enough wages to provide fit quarters, suitable clothes, nourishing food for themselves. They ought to have all those, with something to spare besides, and before society is through with this question they will. But they will not get them merely on the preposterous ground that poverty is the greatest temptation of good women and good girls.

PAYING FOR THE WAR

Mr. Garret Garrett, writing from Berlin to the New York Times, presents a thought-provoking picture of Germany in war times; of Germany paying the bills and mortgaging the future for what she cannot pay; of German financial authority contemplating the future unafraid, and insisting that all will be well.

Germany is not giving away its gold in order to buy things from abroad. Rather, it is hoarding the gold as a basis for credit after the war, when it will be worth in terms of credit several times what it is now worth in terms of supplies. At the bottom of the German conception of the post-bellum problem is the complete confidence that great indemnities will be exacted from the defeated enemies of Germany. There is no uncertainty on this point; even the most enlightened economists, sociologists, publicists, assume this as both major and minor premise in their syllogism.

Assuming all this, they are able to present an interesting view of the thing that will take place after the war. Germany will cease to be the impoverished nation, struggling to meet interest charges due in London, Amsterdam, New York, Barcelona, Copenhagen. Instead, Germany will be the creditor nation, drawing interest payments semi-annually from the financial centers of the world.

Supremely confident of this, supremely assured that in such circumstances her economic rehabilitation will be easy and certain, Germany is staking the last mark and pfennig on the outcome. It is a magnificent gamble; so splendid that Germany, reveling in the seeming prosperity that inflation has produced, is perfectly assured that no other nation can throw the dice with quite such noble recklessness.

But is Germany quite right? Is she, in truth, the only country that dares gamble grandiosely in the future of empire? Is her project better calculated to command confidence than that of France, digging into her stockpiles and selling the things she honestly owns in order to pay current bills? Or is it better than that of Britain, which is paying out real gold in order to maintain real credit with all the world?

Germany, if we are to believe the very friendly analysis of Mr. Garrett, is dealing in futures. She deals in them with the cheerful confidence that her stocks are certain to go up, not down. It is a wide margin. The allies are dickering on the cash basis.

It is one of the maxims of the stock exchange that the man who buys stocks, on the basis of 100 per cent cash, is not a speculator, never gets great profits—and never goes "broke." Germany is dealing on a narrow margin; sure that her shares will rise, and taking no thought of what may happen if she loses.

It is peculiarly difficult to understand how Germany can take this view, considering what happened to her after the war with France. That war was a sweeping German success. France paid the great indemnity charged against her, and what happened?

It has been the well-nigh universal testimony that the payment of the indemnity induced an era of thrift, enterprise, and serious-mindedness in France, which in the end was worth more to that country than the billion dollars of gold which was shipped away to Germany. On the other hand, receipt of that vast largess induced an epoch of speculation, inflation, recklessness, and megalomania in Germany, that ultimately brought disaster.

Assume that Germany collects

ten billions of dollars of indemnities at the end of this war, and that Britain, France, Russia, and Italy pay them. What of it? They will be able to pay that bill, spread over a long period, as easily as the France of 1871 was to pay the milliards of francs that Bismarck thought would ruin her. The commercial and industrial restoration of the allied countries would be made absolutely necessary; while Germany would find herself fattening off the frugality of her late enemies, decaying, overconfident, and swaggering into new trouble that would find her enemies ready as they were not last time.

Conquest at arms does not change the course of empire for very long. Who is so young as not to recall that yesterday Japan and Russia were at each other's throats?

Well, today they are allies.

THE TEACHERS' VIEWPOINT

No better illustration could have been produced of the need for a general organization of the school teachers of Washington than the hearing this week before a committee of Congress regarding the proposed change in the conduct of the schools.

Pupils who go to the schools deserve the first consideration, and next to them come the 2,200 employees of the school system. Every angle of the question was presented at the hearing adequately except the viewpoint of the teachers. It so happens that the redrafted bill of the Commissioners contained a clause insuring the continuance of the merit system of appointments and promotions, and the present salary schedules. But there have been other bills introduced to reorganize the schools which did not contain such a provision.

The committee did not hear, and it should have heard, of the efforts of many years to bring about the present law which insures teachers longevity pay, an equitable salary scale, promotions through examinations, and tenure of their positions unless dismissed for some good and reasonable cause.

The present salary schedule was fixed in 1906 and even then it contained many discrepancies which teachers had to fight in the courts to have straightened out. The justness of the teachers' contentions was proved by the fact that, in every action, the courts ruled in their favor. Those familiar with the history of the schools know the history of these cases, always undertaken in a spirit of fairness, and culminating in the recent decision of the District Supreme Court ordering the restoration of a married teacher to her position despite an archaic rule which automatically dismissed teachers when they marry.

During the present hearing the report from the High School Teachers' Association, containing interesting comparisons of the system here and in other cities, and sketching the progress of teachers in Washington schools. But that report, while it may have represented the feeling of teachers, came from a comparatively small number of them. The whole proceeding shows the need of a general organization which can speak for the teachers upon occasions like this.

Sisyphus rolling his stone up a hill seems to have had a sincere compared to a latter-day note writer.

How do you account for the dearth, this winter, of the sleeping-porch-all-the-year-round liar?

Anyway, just to relieve the minds of the other boys, Mr. Ford ought to deny this Presidential nomination stuff.

It hasn't reached the point yet where they're using gasoline in the perfumery atomizers.

You don't have to be consistent if you are eternally noisy.

For instance, one may howl lustily for intervention today, and tomorrow rise up and yell: "What with?"

Haven't heard yet of anyone naming his heir apparent after the new Mexican President.

There are a lot of persons in a certain northwest apartment house who are in favor of a heavy tax on phonographs.

So far there have been no reports of Prof. Taft's flying into a tantrum at losing that Supreme Court job.

Having recently looked over the originals, it must be said that some of those F street photographers are nothing less than wizards.

There are those who will see in Oscar Hammerstein's bankruptcy another boost for movie censors.

A nice thing about those Wood, Scott, Fletcher, Garrison, Daniels statements is that the ordinary orator can find backing for any side of the argument.

Personal note—It may not be amiss, leap year ladies, to look before you leap.

EXPLAINS PROBLEM OF BALKAN STATES

J. W. McConaughy in Munsey's Presents Study of Peoples and Their History.

"The Balkan States, a long history of intrigue and slaughter," by J. W. McConaughy, explaining just what the Balkan situation and the Balkan problem are, and just how they have grown, is the latest story in the February Munsey Magazine, which is now on the newsstands.

Mr. McConaughy presents an interesting study of the Balkan peoples and of Balkan history, and the events that led to the situation as it existed at the beginning of the present European war. He tells of the growth and development of the Balkan countries and the historic events that brought this growth and development. He gives a clear picture of Balkania, that heretofore has been much of a mystery to the average American.

The February issue also carries a story of the New Secret Service of the United States, which will prove of particular interest to Washingtonians.

It is a description of New York's Memorial to George Washington, the statue review and other features and stories.

Film Shows Relief Work for Belgians

"Movie" Men Take Pictures of Women Sewing at Home of Mrs. Logan.

Three motion picture men squared promptly in yesterday's meeting of fifty members of the District Belgian relief committee at the home of Mrs. John A. Logan, 2527 Thirtieth street northwest. While the women sewed and knitted garments for the relief of the Belgians, the camera men "filmed" the scene.

The local relief committee has kept up the work which was started several months ago, and all the members of the committee have given their time freely and assisted heartily, according to Mrs. Logan, who says that yesterday's meeting was one of the most enthusiastic yet held. A new appeal has been issued to the citizens of the District to contribute money and serviceable clothes. She says the money is needed to buy milk, special foods, and clothing for the many children and motherless infants in the war-stricken country.

ENTERTAINMENT TO AID WAR SUFFERERS

Washington Saengerbund Gives Plays for German Widows and Orphans.

An entertainment for the benefit of widows and orphans of German soldiers was given under the auspices of the ladies' auxiliary of the Washington Saengerbund at headquarters of the organization, 314 C street northwest, last night. The stellar features of the affair were two plays.

These were offerings of the Greek legend, "Pygmalion and Galatea," and a specially written "A Pair of Hail Slippers." In the cast were Miss Anita Schade, Dr. Paul Bartsch, Miss Emma Bender, and Miss Olga K. K.

A piano solo was given by Frank Jones and tenor solos were sung by R. Hacking. A welcome was extended to the guests by Mrs. Linvach, president of the ladies' auxiliary.

Plans are being made for future entertainments for the benefit of the war victims, and the next affair will be held at Odd Fellows Hall February 14 to 15, and a theater party will be given at Poli's on January 31.

Potato Stocks Small

On January 1. Reported

Unusually small stocks of potatoes were held on January 1 in the important potato producing States, according to a Bureau of Crop Estimates statement issued at the Department of Agriculture today.

Supplies on hand on that date were 28 per cent smaller than at the same time last year. The decline in the statement shows that the northern States, which produced 60 per cent of last year's potatoes, had a supply of 10,350,000 bushels of January 1, as compared with 16,250,000 twelve months ago.

These figures, says the statement, "indicate that Southern growers need not fear a burdensome competition with the northern States in the potato market."

The statement says the European war has had no material influence upon the potato market.

Home Club Will Give A Parcel Post Party

"A Parcel Post" party will be given tonight by the art committee of the Home Club at the clubhouse. A sale of attractive packages, the proceeds of which will be used to frame pictures that have been presented to the club, will be held.

"Our National Parks" was the subject of an illustrated lecture delivered before the Home Club last night by D. F. Sekmekiebler, chief of the division of the Bureau of Land and Natural Resources. William Musser presided.

Officers were installed at the meeting of Gen. Henry W. Lawton Camp No. 4, United States Spanish War Veterans, last night. The new officers are: W. P. Davis, commander; John Farmer, senior vice-commander; Edward Keen, junior vice-commander; H. C. Barr, officer of the guard; and Capt. E. M. Lawton, chaplain.

Officers Installed.

Congress Forces On Postoffice Millions It Doesn't Want to Spend

Annual Struggle to Save Money Enters on New Phase.

House Members Find Political Machinery of Rural Free Delivery Efficient and Effective.

By JUDSON C. WELLIVER.

The Postoffice Department is engaged in its annual struggle to induce Congress to permit it to save a few million dollars in the cost of rural free delivery.

Indications are that, as last year, Congress will insist on the department spending these millions that it doesn't want to spend.

This annual controversy between the department, trying to save money, and Congress, insisting on spending it, has entered this year into a new phase.

Postmaster General Burleson, in his annual report, asked that he be given \$48,500,000 with which to conduct rural free delivery. The House Committee on Postoffices has listened to the reasons why this is plenty—and then, according to report from the committee room, has raised the sum to \$53,000,000.

IS POLITICAL MACHINE.

This is not the whole story, however.

James I. Blakeslee, Fourth Assistant Postmaster General, who has direct charge of the rural delivery service, told the committee that if the rural business were placed on a business basis, as it would be if it were conducted by any private corporation, \$15,000,000 could be saved annually. That is, a service that now costs \$50,000,000 in round numbers, annually, could be rendered for \$35,000,000.

Congress talks about economy. Insists that it is going to be economical, worries about wastefulness, and then refuses to consider putting rural delivery on a business basis, with a saving of \$15,000,000.

Last year there was just the same fight, and Congress insisted on giving the department nine or ten millions more than it asked. Why?

Because Congress is determined that the 42,000 rural carriers, organized into one of the most efficient political machines in the country, shall have whatever they want.

That is the long and short of the matter. Efficient and Effective.

Congress has made pots of the rural carriers from the beginning.

When rural free delivery started in 1876, the carriers were paid \$300 per annum, and furnished their own transportation. Since that time Congress after Congress raised their pay until the little amount they are now getting \$1,800 a year.

The great majority get a flat \$1,200 annually. The \$1,800 arises from the fact that some carriers deliver on motorcycles. These cover more ground because they travel faster, but on the other hand, they have cash, and their routes necessarily begin in regions where the best highways exist have quite the finest posts in the service.

There isn't anything in the whole Government organization more efficient than the rural carriers' political machine. Its effectiveness is best attested by the substantial results it has accomplished in getting wages raised.

Deliver the Goods.

Starting in 1895 at \$500, the department discovered that plenty of carriers could be had at that figure. There is testimony that service could be had on most of the routes at that figure today. There is no doubt that at \$500 there would still be more applicants for places than would be needed.

But the rural carrier very quickly became a politician. The country pressman found that the carrier, having constant opportunities to do errands and perform small services for his clientele, was peculiarly "solid" with the voters on his route. He could "deliver the goods" at the primary and election. If the Congressman was kind and amiable toward the carrier, he was likely to make his support; if he wasn't, he lost that support, and

Dr. Joseph A. Mudd, seventy-six, an employee of the District water department, died at his home in Hyattsville, Md., yesterday, following an illness of several weeks. Dr. Mudd was a close personal friend of Speaker Champ Clark, having edited a Lincoln county, Mo., newspaper when Mr. Clark was an editor in a contentious county.

Dr. Mudd as chairman of the road committee of the common council of Hyattsville seven years ago inaugurated the present system of granolithic sidewalks. He was a prominent Catholic, being grand knight of the Washington branch of the Knights of Columbus. Dr. Mudd recently completed a history of the experiences of the regiment of Colonel Porter during the civil war. He served in the Confederate army with Colonel Porter's regiment. The title of the history is "With Porter in Missouri."

Dr. Mudd is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Agnes Macneil, and a son, Frank Mudd, both of Prince George's county, Md.

Mid-City Association Arranging Banquet

P. T. Moran, president of the Chamber of Commerce, will be the guest of the Mid-City Citizens' Association on Monday evening at 1909 Seventh street northwest. A special committee will present the program arranged for the fifth anniversary banquet at the St. James Hotel on Wednesday evening.

Henry James Has Two Strokes of Apoplexy

LONDON, Jan. 22.—Henry James, the American author, who took the oath of allegiance as a British subject last month, and is not improving.

The chronic disease from which he suffers has been complicated by two light strokes of apoplexy.

with it all the votes they could influence. The loss of that support has meant political death to a bunch of country congressmen, too. The rural members don't care nowadays, to test the thing out. They know.

Nobody in Kansas seriously questions what it was in 1914, that put the last straw on Senator Joe Bristow's back and defeated him in his race for reelection. The rural carriers did it.

Four Hours a Day.

Bristow had been Assistant Postmaster-General years ago; he had learned about the carriers' organization and how it was used to get salaries raised. Congress after Congress, as Senator, he was on the Postoffice Committee, and he used his knowledge in ways that the carriers' organizations regarded as highly unfriendly. The result was that they knifed him—at least, his organization and party knifed him. Everybody else in Kansas charged that he did. He was defeated by a very narrow margin.

In the postings, when the carriers were paid \$300, and later \$500, and then \$600 a year, they covered long routes and nobody claimed that they had a hard job. As the network of routes was perfected it became necessary to put in more carriers who were comparatively short, requiring only a few hours to cover them. But the short-hour people fought for the standard wage, and the other day Senator M. M. Blakeslee, told the Postoffice Committee that there were 42,000 carriers who, according to their own reports, worked an average of less than four hours a day. They were paid \$1,200 a year, because the law requires it.

Incidents Cited.

"Thousands of individuals in the public service are compelled to work eight hours and more per day for less than \$1,200 per annum," exclaimed Mr. Blakeslee, "and yet at Fulda, Minn., two rural carriers set forth on a record of the actual hours of service per diem last July that they worked but two hours and forty minutes and three hours and twenty minutes, respectively, with twenty-nine miles each of daily travel. Now, we find like records that carriers at Aurora and Chicago, N. Y., in the same month, were compelled to work eleven hours each per day, and yet they got the same \$1,200."

Last year the department, begging Congress for authority under which it could remedy such inequalities as these and make the pay reasonably fit the service, suggested a contract system. That idea shocked Congress, because it recalled the old days of star-route contracting grabs, and Congress made it an excuse for doing nothing. The department now comes forward with a request for some administrative law, so that it may use horse sense in adjusting routes, hours, service, and pay, and it is rumored that, instead of permitting the service to measure up to the standard, there is danger that Congress will insert some proviso absolutely compelling that all the money appropriated be spent in making the administrative reforms impossible.

DR. JOSEPH A. MUDD DIES IN HYATTSVILLE

Employee of District Water Department Was Close Friend of Champ Clark.

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Complaint Against Germany Is Filed Here by Envoy From War-Ridden Nation.

Complaint against inhumanity by Germany of excessive taxes on the Belgians has been laid before the State Department by E. Haventh, Minister from Belgium. The complaint calls for no action by the United States, and was merely laid before this and other neutral powers as a matter of diplomatic procedure, such as charges of atrocities and other violations of international law have been filed with the Washington government.

Minister Haventh indicated that the complaint would be made public soon. The complaint sets forth that the new taxes levied by Germany, coming in addition to the heavy indemnities demanded, will crush the people of Belgium under a heavy burden of debt.

The complaint cites provisions of the Hague convention to justify Belgium's contention that the German government is violating international law in making the citizens of conquered territories contribute so heavily to the cost of the war.

BELGIANS SAY THEY ARE TAXED TOO MUCH

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G.W. U. ARTILLERY DRILLS IN ARMORY

Quarters for Student Company Fitted Out in First Street Militia Structure.

Permanent quarters for the George Washington University Coast Artillery Company have been established in the First Street Armory of the District National Guard, the building formerly used by the Business High School and later by the Census Bureau.

A large room on the third floor of the structure is being divided into four rooms—an assembly room, a locker room, an officers' room and a quartermaster sergeant's room. An additional room on the fourth floor will be used, if necessary. Large steel lockers already have been installed.

Officers for the company soon will be selected by competitive examination. Walter W. Burns, who has been recommended for captain, is being examined this week. Lieutenants and non-commissioned officers will be selected as a result of examinations to be held probably next week.

Capt. Albert C. Thompson, Jr., Coast Artillery Company, No. 1, A., formerly stationed at Fort Howard, Md., has been designated by the War Department as instructor of the company and has been ordered to Washington for that purpose. Measurements for uniforms have been taken, and orders forwarded by telegraph. The blue dress uniforms are due at any time, and later the woolen olive drab uniforms will be issued. In the spring the men will receive the cotton khaki uniforms.

Drill now is being held regularly every Wednesday night from 8 to 9:30 o'clock. The enlisted strength of the company now is seventy, with five men awaiting physical examination.

COAST DEFENSE GOOD, GEN. WEAVER ASSERTS

Head of Service, in Lecture, Says What Country Has Is Efficient.

That the organization of the forces and the quality of the materials used in coast defense for this